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RED CROSS WORK



THE NEW YORK MEETING

By JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Secretary of the Committee on Nursing Service

THE New York Branch of the Red Cross under the special management of the Committee on Nursing Service opened its conference for nurses at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City on Tuesday, April 13.

The Astor Gallery in which the meeting was held was decorated with American and Red Cross flags, and training schools connected with the following hospitals sent pupils in uniform to act as ushers: St. Vincents, Mt. Sinai, Presbyterian, Roosevelt, New York, Bellevue, New York City, Metropolitan, German, Post-Graduate, St. Luke's, Brooklyn, Long Island College, and Brooklyn Methodist Episcopal.

The military band from Governor's Island was permitted by the War Department to attend the meeting, and their playing did much to enliven the occasion.

Col. Wm. Cary Sanger of Utica, president of the New York State Branch of the Red Cross, presided and in an opening address mentioned the splendid opportunities for service offered by the Red Cross and the need of more members.

Miss Rutty, who did volunteer work during the Spanish-American War, spoke of the suffering of our soldiers that might have been avoided if only there had been a well-organized nursing service ready when war was declared.

Mrs. Wm. K. Draper gave an account of the early history of the Red Cross and of the excellent work done since its reorganization four years ago.

Major Chas. Lynch, of the Medical Department of the Army, spoke of the necessity for organization and preparation for service in time of peace. He also spoke of the great need of nurses in time of war, and urged the importance of organizing the nurses throughout the country in such a manner as to be readily available in time of emergency. He said that the two great necessities were "material" and "personnel." The former could be purchased, but the latter must be organized to be useful.

The meetings at Nightingale Hall were more informal, but no less interesting. They were held April 15 and 16 at 8 P.M.

Capt. Siler, of the United States Army, described the different grades in all branches of the Army and how to distinguish between them. He gave an outline or diagram of a battlefield with the location of the various hospitals and their relation to the rest of the service. The organization and personnel of the Medical Department of the Army was given in detail, as nurses, in case of war, would be most concerned with this branch of the service.

Mrs. Stevenson, a member of the Committee on Nursing Service, told of her experiences during the Spanish-American War and urged upon nurses the need of organization and co-operation.

Miss Gladwin, also a member of this committee, gave an account of her work under the Japanese Red Cross during the war between Japan and Russia.

Miss Delano, secretary of the Committee on Nursing Service, outlined briefly the aims and purposes of the Red Cross and its relation to nurses.

The excursion to Governor's Island on Saturday, April 17, proved to be a fitting close to the conference. A more extended account of the meeting at this Army Post will be given in the next issue of the *JOURNAL*.

DOST thou not see the little plants, the little birds, the ants, the spiders, the bees working together to put in order their several parts of the universe? And art thou unwilling to do the work of a human being?—MARCUS AURELIUS ANTONINUS.

SLOTH makes all things difficult, but Industry all easy; and he that riseth late must trot all day and scarce overtake his business at night: while Laziness travels so slowly that Poverty soon overtakes him.—FRANKLIN.

No one ever did work in a public way which accomplished anything that he did not encounter the opposition of good, conscientious men, as well as that of the politician and the scalawag; and it is useless, in my judgment, to pay much attention to such opposition, though it appears in respectable journals.—WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.